

Amendments To The Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown.

1 – 12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method for removing components of a layer system forming a turbine component, comprising the steps of:

providing a turbine component of the type formed with an alloy substrate layer, a ceramic thermal barrier coating applied over the substrate layer and a bonding layer of composition MCrAlY between the ceramic coating and the substrate layer wherein M is taken from the group consisting of Fe, Ni and Cr;

performing a mechanical operation to facilitate removal of the ceramic thermal barrier coating;

providing a molten salt bath formed of sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide;

treating the turbine component in the salt bath to facilitate removal of the bonding layer, treating including adding, ~~in addition to any oxygen donor already intrinsically present in the molten bath,~~ a sufficient amount of an oxygen donor, taken from the group consisting of oxygen, sodium oxide and other oxides, to the salt bath so as to provide a predetermined and operative boost in chemical attack on the bonding layer;

treating the turbine component in a first acid bath comprising nitric acid and phosphoric acid, the combination of steps resulting in removal of the thermal barrier coating and removal of the bonding layer.

14. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein potassium hydroxide and sodium hydroxide in a mixture ratio of 1 to 1 % by volume is used for the salt bath.

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the turbine component is treated in a second acid bath having a different chemical composition than the first acid bath.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the turbine component is treated in a second acid bath comprising hydrochloric acid.

17. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the turbine component is first treated in the first acid bath comprising nitric acid and phosphoric acid and then treated in the second acid bath comprising hydrochloric acid.

18. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein an ultrasound probe is used in at least one of the baths to accelerate removal of the bonding layer.

19. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of performing a mechanical operation includes sand-blasting.

20. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the step of performing a mechanical operation includes flow grinding.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the oxygen donor is sodium oxide.

23. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the oxygen donor is a metal oxide.

24. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the turbine component is watered and dried in at least one intermediate step.

25. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the turbine component is watered or dried in at least one intermediate step.

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26. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the turbine component is treated with a complex-forming agent in an intermediate or final step.